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A N N E X

1 October 1948

**RIFT IN THE ARAB LEAGUE**

The formation of a Palestine Arab Government (PAG) has caused a serious rift in the Arab League, which may lead even to open hostilities between the Arab Legion of King Abdullah of Transjordan, who is violently opposed to the PAG, and Arab guerrilla bands under the Grand Mufti, who strongly supports the PAG. In sponsoring the PAG, the majority of the Arab League states (especially Egypt and Syria) seek to: (a) establish a government which can speak for an Arab Palestine vis-a-vis Israel before the UN; (b) shift the main responsibilities for developments in Palestine from themselves and their armies to the new state; and (c) frustrate Abdullah's plan to incorporate Arab Palestine into Transjordan.

Abdullah is in a strong position because his Arab Legion already occupies much of central Palestine, the Bernadotte plan recommends that Arab Palestine be annexed to Transjordan, and the UK is making vigorous representations to the other Arab States in support of Abdullah's claims to Arab Palestine. However, the Mufti's guerrilla bands, together with the formation of the PAG, are a serious threat to Abdullah's position.

A critical factor in the situation will be the attitude of Iraq, traditionally an ally of Transjordan but now under great pressure from the Arab League to alter its alignment. With Iraq's backing, Transjordan can flout the rest of the Arab League. However, if Iraq recognizes the PAG, Abdullah will probably be unable to make good his claims to Arab Palestine.

- i -

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